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9 February 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Frederick H. Sligh
External Research Staff
Department of State

SUBJECT: Comments on Suggested Topics for Research
on Eastern Europe

1. The comments of one of our offices on the research topic list for Eastern Europe is as follows:

"I think we are agreed that this type of external research project is not of much direct use to us. This list in particular would produce for the most part only studies in political history, but for our purpose we have adequate background material available already. What might be useful would be specialized economic studies, for example, of transportation, particular industries, agriculture, and Soviet planning. It is in this field that in-government research seems to produce results too infirm on which to base our estimates of Soviet capabilities. External research studies in this field might, if they were of good quality, provide a useful supplement and check on what we are now getting."

2. Another office indicated its interest in the projects underlined under paragraph 1, sub a, b, c, e, f, g, i, j, k, n, o; paragraph 4; and paragraph 8.

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